T.P 11/23/67

LA., THURSDAY MORNING,

KOHN WON'T GO BEFORE JURORS

Says Litigation Pending Between MCC, DA

Metropolitan Crime Commission (MCC) Managing Director Aaron M. Kohn said Wednesday in a letter to Chief Assistant District Atty. Charles R. Ward that he must decline any invitation to appear before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury because of litigation concerning the MCC and the District Attorney's Office.

Here is the text of the letter which Kohn said he sent to Ward Tuesday:

"At 11:30 a.m. today, I received your registered letter dated Nov. 13, 1967, inviting me to appear before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury Nov. 16. At 11:32 a.m. today, your telegram was received inviting me to come before the Grand Jury Wednesday at 9 a.m.

"On Sept. 20, I was informed that a New Orleans police officer had been selected to assist the MCC compile data for the Grand Jury. Less than one week later, your office attempted to subpena all records of informers, members and contributors of the Crime Commission. The entire tenor of the subpena made it clear your purpose was to destroy the MCC, rather than have its cooperation.

"Because, for reasons best known to yourself, you have made the Crime Commission the target of false accusations and official investigation, we have been obliged to retain legal counsel for our protection. On advice of our counsel, I must decline your invitation to appear before the Grand Jury while litigation involving the Crime Commission and your office is still pending."